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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An actuating drive for a valve drive having a variable adjustable stroke for activating valves of an internal combustion engine comprising a cylinder head, a plurality of valves arranged in the cylinder head, closable by spring force, and having a respective assigned stroke transfer arrangement for each valve in a fixed position, and a camshaft rotatably mounted in the cylinder head having a camshaft cam and a fixed position relative to the valves and their assigned stroke transfer arrangements, said actuating drive comprising:

(a) a changeable element having a changeable position for valve stroke adjustment pivotally mounted in the cylinder head about a pivot axis fixed in the cylinder head, said changeable element having cams on its circumference;

(b) an intermediate member held in engagement on said cams by a spring force and supported on said cams for guided movements, said intermediate member also being in engagement with the camshaft cam and the stroke transfer arrangement assigned to each valve;

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(c) an actuating lever coupled to said element in a fixed rotational manner;

(d) an actuating slide adjacent to the cylinder head and in engagement with said actuating lever, said actuating slide being guided for displacement in the cylinder head and having an actuating bridge, said actuating lever resting on at least one side of said actuating bridge so that pivotal movement of said actuating lever results from displacement of said actuating slide; and

(e) an actuating motor coupled to said actuating slide for effecting displacement of said actuating slide and guidance of said actuating lever to a selected angle position in the cylinder head.

2. The actuating drive according to Claim 1, wherein said actuating bridge has at least one control surface with a nonlinear slope.

3. The actuating drive according to Claim 2, wherein said at least one control surface is constructed so that during displacement along an actuating path towards a maximum

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stroke of the valve, a decrease in change in valve stroke results relative to the actuating path.

4. The actuating drive according to Claim 1, wherein said actuating slide is arranged on the side of the cylinder head opposite to the camshaft.

5. The actuating drive according to Claim 1, wherein a spring supported on said changeable element provides the spring force for engaging said intermediate member on said cams and effects a torque or support moment in a direction of adjustment towards a greater stroke on the changeable element.

6. The actuating drive according to Claim 1, further comprising an actuating nut attached to said actuating slide guided in fixed rotational manner by said actuating lever.

7. Actuating drive according to Claim 1, wherein said the actuating slide is coupled with a pressure-impacted actuating cylinder, in thrust-resistant manner.